

Introduction

The Arizona Community Foundation's Communities for Kids--ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP is a statewide initiative designed to engage Arizona communities in the lives of young children, birth to 5 years. Tempe and Prescott were selected as pilot sites in early 2002. The objective of this planning process is to determine what needs to happen in Tempe, Arizona in order to arrive at a consensus as to what a "Community For Kids" is, why it is different from any other community, and how our children will benefit from this effort. As a group, we are striving to formulate a clear vision and create a sustainable infrastructure for providing the resources and nurturing support that families need to raise children who are healthy and ready to succeed in school. In order to achieve these goals, we need to:

- * Increase public awareness and knowledge of Birth-5 Development
- * Support comprehensive and systemic change aimed at ensuring that all parents have the knowledge and skills to support their children's early success
- * Mobilize the community of Tempe to advocate and act on behalf of all children
- * Develop sustained community engagement around our youngest citizens

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